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FILED

DEC 23 2020

Clerk of Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma
By M. Lemley
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SONOMA

AMENDED ORDER

**Order of the Presiding Judge RE: First Appearances by Remote Technology
and Domestic Violence Calendar Changes**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to health and safety concerns resulting in substantial operational impediments of the Sonoma County Superior Court (the Court), and new statewide health orders issued by the California Department of Health on December 3, 2020, indicating that “The State, like the nation, continues to record an unprecedented surge in the level of community spread of COVID-19”, I order as follows:

1. All appearances in the Court by persons in custody, with the exception of preliminary examination hearings and trial sessions, shall be by remote technology only until the Court is notified that the in custody person has tested negative for COVID-19 pursuant to the current jail protocols. The requirement for remote appearance in this Order includes readiness conferences. The Court strongly encourages remote appearance in all proceedings if at all possible.
2. Beginning December 21, 2020, all domestic violence matters shall be set in the Court’s alpha-split departments from first appearance through the taking of a guilty plea, after which the case will be transferred to the Domestic Violence Court (DV Court) for sentencing. After sentencing the case shall remain in DV Court for all proceedings thereafter including matters involving violation or modification of DV Court probation.

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3. The Presiding Judge's prior Order regarding these matters dated December 10, 2020, is hereby vacated.

4. These orders shall remain in effect until further order of the presiding judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 23, 2020



BRADFORD J. DEMEO
PRESIDING JUDGE
SONOMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT